

Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority
Supplementary Page
PCT/DE2004/001270

Regarding Point V

1. In this communication, reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE 101 35 142 A (BOSCH GMBH ROBERT) 31 October 2002
(2002-10-31)

D2: EP 0 803 712 A (DENSO CORP) 29 October 1997 (1997-10-29)

2. Closest Prior Art

Document D1 is regarded as the closest prior art and discloses (the references in brackets refer to this document):

- a device for determining at least one parameter of a medium flowing in a conduit in a main flow direction (abstract),
- including a conduit member which forms a conduit passage and has a sensor device having a bypass section which is arranged in the conduit member in such a manner that a partial flow of the medium flowing in the conduit member enters an inlet region of a channel structure formed in the bypass section (column 2, line 59 through column 3, line 28),
- the inlet region having a separation opening which opens into the conduit passage at at least one of two side walls of the bypass section running parallel to the center axis, and which has a distance from the downstream rear wall of

the bypass section in the main flow direction (column, para. 33).

The subject matter of independent claim 1 differs therefrom in that:

a) a flow guide wall running at least approximately parallel to the side wall provided with the separation opening of the bypass section is located in the conduit member behind the separation opening, as viewed in the main flow direction.

Therefore, the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (Article 33 (2) PCT).

3. Technical Problem / Object

The problem to be solved by the present invention can therefore be seen to be that

- in the known device, pressure fluctuations are transmitted through the separation opening to the measuring channel branching off from the inlet region. Consequently, the output signal of the measuring element can be significantly corrupted.

4. Solution, Inventive Step

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present patent application is based on an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

- although the problem to be solved is already known from document D2 (see column 3, lines 35-56), this document contains no teaching regarding the solution defined by the features a) of claim 1;

- in the existing literature, no document was found to describe the problem to be solved.

5. Dependent Claims

Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore also meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.